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## Stalin's Prodigal Daughter

She was Joseph Stalin's child, but in 1967 she startled the world by defecting to the West. She burned her Soviet passport, married an American and settled down to a bourgeois life in the United States. Outraged, the Kremlin stripped Svetlana Alliluyeva of her Soviet citizenship and denounced her as a "traitress to the homeland." But last month Svetlana, 58, quietly withdrew her American-born daughter, Olga Peters, 13, from the private school she attended in England. Then she defected again—back to the Soviet Union. In a terse statement, the Soviet news agency Tass confirmed the return of Stalin's prodigal daughter, and said that Moscow "had considered and complied with" her request that both she and Olga be granted Soviet citizenship.

Apparently, Svetlana had suffered from acute homesickness. She recently had a long series of telephone conversations with relatives in Moscow, including her children from marriages that ended before her first getaway. "She said she was disappointed

in the West and that she missed her children," said a Muscovite who is acquainted with some of Svetlana's relatives. For a while she had appeared to embrace the American way of life. She had celebrity status. Her book "Twenty Letters to a Friend"—containing revelations about life with her tyrant father—was a critical and financial success. But her marriage to William Wesley Peters, an architect, broke up and she moved to Britain in 1982. In an article published there this year, she said she could no longer see any real difference between the Soviet and American political systems.

The Kremlin was not likely to pass up the propaganda windfall of Svetlana's return—or to avoid exacting a price for overlooking her past transgressions. Sometime soon she will probably appear at a carefully scripted press conference in Moscow, or on Soviet television. It is even possible that she will say that her 18 years in the West were a mistake—perhaps forced upon her somehow by the CIA—and she will rejoice in her return to Mother Russia. Then, perhaps, Stalin's daughter will be left to search for the peace of mind that apparently has eluded her throughout her life.



Svetlana: Homesick